

1. An isolated polypeptide, the polypeptide comprising:-
 - (i) an amino acid sequence as set out in SEQ ID NO:1, or
 - (ii) an amino acid sequence having at least 50% identity to the amino acid sequence set out in SEQ ID NO:1, or
 - (iii) a functional fragment of (i) or (ii).
2. An isolated polypeptide or peptide as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polypeptide or peptide has a sequence of at least 70%, more preferably at least 80% and most preferably at least 90% identity with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1.
3. An isolated polypeptide, the polypeptide comprising:-
 - (i) an amino acid sequence as set out in SEQ ID NO:2, or
 - (ii) an amino acid sequence having at least 50% identity to the amino acid sequence set out in SEQ ID NO:2, or
 - (iii) a functional fragment of (i) or (ii).
4. An isolated polypeptide or peptide as claimed in claim 3, wherein the polypeptide or peptide has a sequence of at least 70%, more preferably at least 80% and most preferably at least 90% identity with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2.
5. An isolated ligand, the ligand being interactive with the polypeptide or peptide of any one of claims 1 to 4.
6. An isolated ligand as claimed in claim 5, wherein the ligand is an antibody or the binding portion thereof.
7. An isolated nucleic acid molecule, the nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4.

8. An isolated nucleic acid molecule, the nucleic acid molecule comprising:-

- (i) a sequence as set out in SEQ ID NO:3, or
- (ii) a sequence having at least 60% identity to the sequence set out in SEQ ID NO:3, or
- (iii) a sequence which hybridises to the sequence set out in SEQ ID NO:3 under stringent conditions, or
- (iv) a sequence encoding a functional analogue of a polypeptide as set out in SEQ ID NO:1.

9. An isolated nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 8, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises a sequence of at least 70%, more preferably at least 80% and most preferably at least 90% identity with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3.

10. An isolated nucleic acid molecule, the nucleic acid molecule comprising:-

- (i) a sequence as set out in SEQ ID NO:4, or
- (ii) a sequence having at least 60% identity to the sequence set out in SEQ ID NO:4, or
- (iii) a sequence which hybridises to the sequence set out in SEQ ID NO:4 under stringent conditions, or
- (iv) a sequence encoding a functional analogue of a polypeptide as set out in SEQ ID NO:2.

11. An isolated nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 10, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises a sequence of at least 70%, more preferably at least 80% and most preferably at least 90% identity with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:4.

12. An isolated nucleic acid molecule, the nucleic acid molecule encoding the binding region of a ligand as claimed in claim 5 or claim 6.

13. A composition for use in raising or lowering an immune response in a subject, the composition comprising a ligand as claimed in claim 5 or claim 6 and an antigen and optionally a carrier and/or adjuvant.

14. A composition as claimed in claim 13, wherein the antigen is associated with the ligand.
- 5 15. A composition as claimed in claim 13, wherein the antigen is conjugated to the ligand.
16. A composition for use in raising or lowering an immune response in a subject, the composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule and a carrier,
10 the nucleic acid molecule comprising a first sequence encoding a ligand as claimed in claim 5 or claim 6 and a second sequence encoding an antigen.
17. A method of screening a putative compound for immunological regulatory activity, the method comprising reacting the compound with a
15 polypeptide or peptide as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 and measuring interaction between the compound and the polypeptide or peptide.
18. A method of isolating an antigen presenting cell from a biological sample, the method comprising contacting the biological sample with a
20 ligand as claimed in claim 5 or claim 6 such that a complex is formed between the ligand and the antigen presenting cell.
19. A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein the ligand is immobilised on a solid support.
- 25 20. A method of immunising a subject, the method comprising
(i) isolating antigen presenting cells from a fluid sample obtained from the subject, wherein the isolation involves contacting the fluid sample with a ligand as claimed in claim 5 or claim 6;
30 (ii) exposing the cells isolated from step (i) to an antigen; and
(iii) reintroducing the cells from step (ii) into the subject.
21. A method as claimed in claim 20, in which the method comprises the further step of growing the antigen presenting cells *in vitro* after step (i).
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- 22 A method of immunising a subject, the method comprising:
- (i) isolating precursor cells from a fluid sample obtained from the subject, wherein the isolation involves contacting the fluid sample with a ligand as claimed in claim 5 or claim 6
 - 5 (ii) growing the cells isolated from step (i) *in vitro* such that they mature and differentiate to become antigen presenting cells
 - (iii) exposing the cells obtained in step (ii) to an antigen
 - (iv) reintroducing the cells from step (iii) into the subject
- 10 23. A method of modulating an immune response in a subject, the method comprising administering to the subject a ligand as claimed in claim 5 or claim 6 such that the ligand binds to and inhibits the function of an antigen presenting cell.
- 15 24. A method as claimed in claim 23 wherein the antigen presenting cell is a myeloid dendritic cell.
25. A method as claimed in claim 23 or claim 24 in which the method further comprises the step of administering an antigen to the subject.
- 20 26. A method as claimed in claim 25 in which the antigen is administered after administration of the ligand.